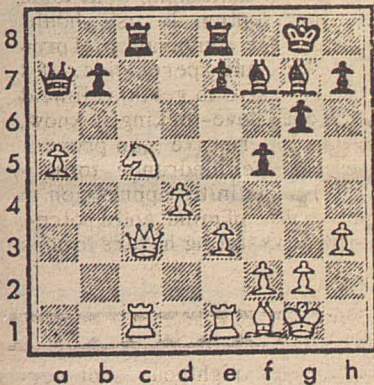


WILL THE GREATEST CHESS GAME HAPPEN?

by Jude Acers

(US senior master)

Several million dollars ride on one game. Here it is:



Karpov wins the world chess championship or Fischer match rights by offering a draw after his 31st move, 31 Qa1xc3. Korchnoi accepted. Karpov wins by three wins, two losses and 19 draws. Korchnoi could have tried 31...Kg8-h8, but he remains a pawn down without compensation in great time pressure.

So it is all over. Now the world waits. Will the greatest chess match, the greatest sports spectacle of all time...happen? Nobody but Bobby Fischer really knows for sure.

DECISIVE GAME: World Challenger Final Match, Moscow, Nov. 23, 1974, Round 24 (time control, 40 moves in 2 1/2 hours).

White: Anatoly Karpov. Black:

Viktor Korchnoi.

Queen's Gambit Accepted, Schlechter Variation.

1 Ng1-f3 Pd7-d5, 2 Pd2-d4 Ng8-f6, 3 Pc2-c4 Pd5xc4, 4 Pe2-e3 Pg7-g6, 5 Bf1xc4 Bf8-g7, 6 0-0 0-0, 7 Pb2-b3 Pc7-c6(A), 8 Bc1-b2 Bc8-g4, 9 Nb1-d2 Nb8-d7, 10 Ph2-h3 Bg4-f5, 11 Rf1-e1 Nd7-b6, 12 Bc4-f1 Nf6-e4, 13 Nd2xe4 Bf5xe4, 14 Nf3-d2 Be4-f5, 15 Ra1-cl Ra8-c8, 16 Qd1-e2 Rc8-c7, 17 Pa2-a4 Bf5-c8, 18 Bb2-a3 Bc8-e6, 19 Qe2-d1 Rf8-e8, 20 Nd2-e4 Pf7-f5, 21 Ne4-c5 Be6-f7, 22 Ba3-b2 Nb6-d7, 23 Nc5-d3 Rc7-c8, 24 Pb2-b4 Pa7-a5, 25 Pb4xa5 Qd8xa5, 26Bb2-c3 Qa5-a7, 27 Pa4-a5 Pc6-c5(B), 28 Qd1-a4! Nb6-d5(C), 30 Nd3xc5! Nd5xc3, 31 Qa1xc3 Drawn.

Notes:

(A) 7... Pc7-c5! equalizes. Korchnoi needs a win at all cost, avoids symmetry and simplification.

(B) Suetin recommends 27... Rc8-d8, intending Pe7-e5!

(C) Desperation. Suetin suggests 29...Nb6-d7 is more prudent. Korchnoi sees that Karpov would then force a draw with 30 Nd3xc5 and stand better anyway.

IN ANSWER TO MANY INQUIRIES, FOR XMASSHOPPING: Where to purchase chess books, chess equipment (Yes, chess clocks!) of top quality in the Bay Area.

GAMBIT GAME STORE, 625 Kearny St., San Francisco 94104 (phone, 788-2066). An incredible game and book store that beats absolutely anything that I have ever seen. Must be seen to be believed. Nice people, latest chess news, huge selection of all chess books known to man. Top chess talent in the area practically live in the place. Many other games featured as well. They guarantee their merchandise unconditionally. Management is hip, all-American nice guy type. Unlimited browsing, girl watching! Even the great Acers creeps in once every three years. Look out for Ziad Baroudi and James McCormick, local chess masters who will blow you off the chessboard if you even look crosseyed at them. (Go freaks and backgammon nuts meet here, too!)

EAST ASIA BOOK AND GAME STORE, 2508 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 94704 (phone, 848-8018), Brained, nursed, advised by blindfold chess expert Alan Benson, who knows everything about everybody in the chess world. (Benson's chess library is the largest I've ever seen an active player work with.) Store owner Gary Grady carries a huge selection of Ishi Press go books and equipment plus plenty of non-chess war games as well as a variety of chess clocks, wooden chess tables, exotic and normal chess sets and some books. Go!!